

What Farage doesn't want you to know about his Brexit party

Tory vote in freefall... now MPs launch new plot against May

Socialists must vote Labour—but we need real struggle



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FIGHT TO STOP ELECTION OF FASCIST TOMMY ROBINSON

WIPE THE SMILE OFF HIS FACE

ANTI-RACISTS have organised a big push this weekend to make sure Nazi Tommy Robinson isn't elected to the European Parliament.

Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) and Unite Against Fascism have called two days of action in the North West of England. Activists from across Britain will help to deliver tens of thousands of leaflets across the region.

And SUTR supporters in the South West of England also plan to target Ukip including candidate Carl Benjamin. The alt right YouTube personality—known online as “Sargon of Akkad”—is a vicious racist and misogynist.

He joined Ukip last year when Ukip leader Gerard Batten openly embraced Robinson.

Every fascist, racist and bigot will be ecstatic if Robinson

becomes an MEP. It will give him a bigger platform to spout racism—and further normalise his far right views within wider society.

We have to wipe the smiles off the faces of Robinson, Batten and The Brexit Party's Nigel Farage.



TOMMY ROBINSON—fraudster, felon and fascist

TRUMP

White House is drowning in a climate of denial

DONALD TRUMP'S war on the planet is one of the most urgent reasons to join protests against his state visit to Britain in June.

Extreme weather, species extinction, decimation of natural habitats and other horrors for ordinary people are presented as opportunities for bosses to make profits.

>>Page 17

SUDAN



'Organising the revolution'—an eyewitness

MASS SIT-INS in Sudan have the power to shake the military regime that's clinging on to power.

Muawwiyya Ahmed Kessinger is part of the revolutionary committees at the sit-in in Khartoum. He spoke to Socialist Worker about how people are organising the revolution.

>>Page 8

ENVIRONMENT

Climate activists join march in central London

THOUSANDS OF climate change activists marched through central London last Sunday.

Called by Extinction Rebellion and Mothers Rise Up, organisers say 2,500 marched to demand urgent action on climate change.

>>Page 7

Picture: PA



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Corbygeddon'

An unnamed **tax advisor** in the Sunday Times newspaper explaining why they are taking clients' money out the country

'You have to put yourself forward —no one else will'

Liz Truss, chief secretary to the Treasury and would-be Tory leader

'I'm too brown for the right—but not brown enough for the left'

Tory leadership contender and home secretary **Sajid Javid**

'What the fuck is wrong with her? That's insane'

Guillaume McLaughlin, European Union Brexit negotiator, rages over Theresa May in a documentary after being told a deal is off because the PM hadn't cleared the details with the DUP

'It's been a historic week for English football, inspiring children, adults, prime ministers'

Theresa May kicks a ball to prove a point or something



Para proud of role of soldiers who kept a skull for an ashtray

HENRY THORNTON, from south Armagh, was shot as he travelled along Belfast's Springfield Road in August 1971.

Former British paratrooper **Henry Gow** told a coroner's court last week how a colleague recovered part of the skull of Henry Thornton, and used it as an ashtray.

Details of the disturbing actions of British soldiers were raised at an inquest into the killing of ten people over three days in Ballymurphy, in West Belfast, in 1971 by the Parachute Regiment.

Gow had previously recounted the episode in his autobiography *Killing Zone*.

During questioning this week Gow said that a "sweep-stake" was run by his unit to reward soldiers who "got a kill". Henry Gow, whose



FORMER PARA, now barrister, Henry Gow

company of the Parachute Regiment was not involved in the Ballymurphy shootings, said the winner "got the pot" and would use the money to "go for a piss-up".

The former policeman,

SAS member and paratrooper said in his book that the soldiers there were "on a high".

Gow said that West Belfast "went insane" during riots, and said that "on the day of internment, everybody on

the street was an enemy".

Gow said he had been told by many of the men involved that they "only shot at armed people" and that the woman killed was armed with a gun.

None of those killed were armed. When pressed on the names of those who had carried out the shootings, he told the court he could not recall them.

Barristers representing a number of the families accused Gow of lying to the coroner's court.

Gow said he had not wanted to appear at the inquest but had been summonsed to do so and that he believed it to be a "witch hunt".

Gow also claimed that "the people of West Belfast should be thankful for the discipline of the British army".

THE LATEST company to shift HQ and blame Brexit for publicity reasons is Caversham Insurance (Malta). That is the insurance wing of BrightHouse, a "rent-to-own" company that targets low income households by offering goods on eye-wateringly high weekly credit rates. But worry not. It is moving from low-tax Malta to the tax haven of Gibraltar. But at least it's a British overseas tax haven.



Offshore because of Brexit?

NIGEL FARAGE has been barred from his local pub in Westerham, Kent, after being accused of leaving the scene of a car crash involving the landlord and his 13 month old son. Patrick Tranter said the Brexit Party leader "upped and left", but Farage said he had checked on the family's welfare first.

Posh children are not getting enough breaks

WILL NO one think of the posh children? The recruitment by Oxford and Cambridge of more state pupils has led to private-school children being edged out by "social engineering".

Anthony Wallersteiner, head of Stowe School in Buckinghamshire, said that access plans had "successfully driven down the number of Oxbridge places awarded to privately educated pupils".

He told The Times, "The rise of populists and polemicists has created a micro-industry in bashing private schools."

"Some of the criticisms echo the conspiratorial language of The Protocols



Anthony Wallersteiner

of the Elders of Zion.

"It was relatively easy for Hitler and his henchmen to suggest that the Jewish minority was over-represented in key professions—medicine, law, teaching and the creative industries."

"Privately educated pupils are also being accused of dominating the top jobs and stifling social mobility."

£6,500 Hillsborough health and safety fine

GRAHAM Mackrell has been fined £6,500 for a safety breach relating to the 1989 Hillsborough disaster.

He was also ordered to pay £5,000 prosecution costs.

Some 96 Liverpool fans died after being crushed in two pens at Sheffield Wednesday's football stadium.

A jury last month found that Mackrell failed to ensure there were enough turnstiles to prevent unduly large crowds building up.

He was the club safety officer at the time of the disaster and is the first person to be convicted of



Graham Mackrell

an offence relating to it.

The jury had to reach a verdict in the case of former police match commander David Duckenfield, who faced charges of manslaughter by gross negligence.

A hearing to decide whether Duckenfield will face a retrial is expected to take place next month.



Prince Charles

Prince Charles and the child abusing priest

PRINCE Charles misused his influence to shield Peter Ball, a former Anglican bishop, from punishment after the cleric admitted sexually abusing a young man.

The Independent Inquiry Into Child Sexual Abuse concluded last week that "the actions of the Prince of Wales were misguided".

The report details a powerful old boys' network that mobilised to defend Ball, who was first accused of sexual misconduct in 1969 but continued to rise through the church hierarchy for two decades.

Upon being appointed bishop of Gloucester in 1991, he was warned that "there should be no more boys," the inquiry found.

In 1993 Ball admitted to an act of gross indecency and accepted a police



Bishop Ball

caution. He was forced to step down as bishop, but returned within two years.

In 2015 Ball pled guilty to indecent assault and misconduct in public office in connection with the abuse of 16 boys and men who had come to him for spiritual guidance.

Ball was friends with the headmasters of many of the country's most prestigious schools, and belonged to a private dining club called Nobody's Friends.

It met twice a year at the home of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Ball lived in one of Prince Charles's properties from the late 1990s until 2011. After he was forced to step down as bishop of Gloucester, the prince lobbied for him.

"I wish I could do more," the prince wrote.

"I feel so desperately strongly about the monstrous wrongs that have been done to you and the way you have been treated."

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Anti-racists step up the action against Robinson

by TOMÁŠ TENGY-EVANS

ANTI-RACISTS ARE gearing up for big days of action this weekend to stop Nazi Tommy Robinson and Ukip's far right candidates in the European elections

Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) supporters have been out almost every day for the last two weeks to make sure Robinson doesn't become an MEP in North West England.

Dozens of SUTR supporters gathered outside the Old Bailey in London as Robinson's retrial for contempt of court began on Tuesday.

And in the South West of England activists are campaigning against alt right YouTube personality Carl Benjamin—known as “Sargon of Akkad”—who is Ukip's lead candidate in the region.

Around 100 people joined a rally against Robinson in Bolton, Greater Manchester, last Saturday. Laila Hasan from Bolton SUTR said, “This has been a show of unity and solidarity in the face of hatred and division.”

“People have been taking away leaflets to distribute in their workplaces and areas.”

The following day SUTR supporters, including two Labour councillors, leafleted Manchester United's Old Trafford football ground.

Celia, an SUTR activist, told Socialist Worker, “We had an overwhelmingly positive response.”

“We got rid of a lot of leaflets and a couple of people wanted a whole bundle to take away.”

There is a real danger that Robinson could win a seat due to low turnout and the proportional representation voting system.

Celia said, “Around this time last year we leafleted Old Trafford ahead of the Football Lads Alliance coming to Manchester.”

“I sense there was more support for the far right this time around. Tommy



ANTI-RACISTS OUTSIDE the Old Bailey

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Meanwhile, Ukip's campaign has been floundering.

Party leader Gerard Batten's battle bus didn't show up as planned to the Westminster launch last Friday or in Swindon and Bristol last Tuesday.

Batten promoted alt right candidates, causing tensions with Ukip's traditional conservative wing.

SUTR activists and others joined protests anyway.

Protesters threw a milkshake—and fish—at Benjamin in Truro last week after a similar action against Robinson went viral earlier this month.

Afterwards another one of Ukip's alt right candidates Mark Meechan—known online as “Count Dankula”—threatened protesters with violence.

He was fined last year for teaching a dog to do the Nazi salute on hearing

“gas the Jews”. Meechan said, “Just to be clear, anyone that comes at me with a milkshake will need the straw to eat their meals for the next few months.”

“I don't care how many cameras are rolling, you'll be getting booted up and down the street.”

His threat of violence follows an assault by Robinson supporters on activist Alice Edwards in Warrington, Cheshire, last week.

Only a mass campaign can stop the far right—anti-racists need to mobilise large numbers for the days of action this weekend.

On other pages...

Stopping fascist threat Tommy Robinson >> Pages 10&11

IN BRIEF

A big rally in Wigan estate

AROUND 200 people joined a rally for Nazi Tommy Robinson on a housing estate in Wigan, Greater Manchester, on Monday.

The rally on Norley Hall Estate included people who came out of their houses to hear Robinson speak.

While it was a minority of the estate, it shows there's no room for complacency.

Robinson is trying to present himself as an “anti-establishment” voice of working class people. He is a middle class businessman who pushes racism that divides working class people.

Stand Up To Racism supporters, including Labour members, leafleted against Robinson in the town but were heavily outnumbered.

Read the truth about Tommy Robinson at bit.ly/TruthAboutTR

The racism of Brexit Party

A HIGH-RANKING member of Nigel Farage's Brexit Party has defended Nazi Tommy Robinson.

Noel Matthews, the party's national election agent, posted an article about Robinson with the comment, “THIS. Tommy Robinson Drew Attention to Grooming Gangs. Britain Has Persecuted Him.”

Matthews praised Robinson's “free speech rally” last year. “Tommy's no politician but it looks like he has the BBC bang to rights,” he said. “His rally is about corrupt media. It's not about racism or fascism.”

He also said Islamophobia was a “silly, made up word”.

Groups reject Nazi money

OVER 40 women's organisations and charities dismissed Tommy Robinson's promise of money for them as a “profound insult” last week.

The Nazi pledged to give “100 percent” of his salary to “child victims of sexual grooming” if he's elected as an MEP for the North West.

An open letter, published last Friday, slams Robinson for trying to blame Muslims for sexual abuse.

It said, “Tommy doesn't care about the rights of women and girls—he is exploiting the pain of survivors and their families to fuel racist hate for his own gain.”

Longer online at bit.ly/RejectMoney

Breakfast in



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Send 'start' to the number



Dark side of Brexit Party that Farage wants to keep hidden

by SADIE ROBINSON

NIGEL FARAGE thinks tackling climate change “isn't terribly intelligent,” wants privatisation in the NHS and calls racist scaremongering over immigration “the truth”.

The Brexit Party leader's vile views were exposed during a BBC interview with Andrew Marr last weekend.

Marr asked Farage if he stood over a series of comments he has made. These included the claim that HIV positive people shouldn't be allowed into Britain.

Farage replied, “Do I think the National Health Service is there for British people? Yes, I absolutely do.”

Asked if he still wants to replace the NHS with an insurance-based system of health care he said, “I'd like to take the burden off the NHS.”

Farage also stood over a racist poster he unveiled in 2016 showing a line of refugees with the words, “Breaking point.” “It was the truth,” he said.

Asked if he still thought that worrying about climate change is “the stupidest thing in human history” he downplayed Britain's emissions. And he said it “isn't terribly intelligent” to take measures to protect the planet.

The Brexit Party is riding high in the polls for the European elections on 23 May and has held big rallies across Britain.

Furious

But aside from supporting Brexit with no deal, the party has unveiled no manifesto or policies.

Farage was furious to be questioned on some of his other opinions. “I've never in my life seen a more ridiculous interview,” he fumed.

Farage has criticised Ukip leader Gerard Batten for cosying up to fascist Tommy Robinson. He said it meant the Ukip “brand is now tarnished”.

That doesn't make him or his Brexit Party progressive. During a tour of Australia last year Farage called Robinson “brave”.

The Brexit Party's national election agent Noel Matthews has

BACK STORY

Nigel Farage's Brexit Party was launched earlier this year

● It hopes to use frustration with mainstream politics to boost racist and reactionary ideas

● It is standing candidates in upcoming elections to the European Parliament—and is doing well in opinion polls

● It has more than 90,000 signed up supporters, paying £25 each

● Thousands of people have turned out to Brexit Party rallies (see report, page 15)

defended Robinson and complained that he has been “persecuted”.

Farage is also under fire for criticism of billionaire George Soros that echoes antisemitic conspiracy theories.

And the Brexit Party has attracted nasty supporters, some of whom were suspended from the Tories for Islamophobia.

Former Tory council candidate Dorinda Bailey was suspended after agreeing with a social media post saying the “whole fucking lot” of mosques should be bombed.

Simon Dearsley runs a Facebook page called “Brexit Party supporters”. He has said that racist Enoch Powell was “right” and has posted an image of himself impersonating Adolf Hitler.

Luke Nash-Jones runs another Facebook group, “the Brexit Party—Supporters”. He was part of a far right attack on the socialist Bookmarks bookshop last year.

Registered Brexit Party supporter Sandra Blake wrote on Facebook that she wants to “halt an Islamic invasion”.

Catherine Blaiklock, the first Brexit Party leader, resigned in March after it was revealed that she had deleted a series of anti-Islam posts on Twitter.



On other pages...

Stopping fascist threat Tommy Robinson >> Pages 10&11

FARAGE DOESN'T want to point out some of his bigoted ideas

Tory MPs could force May out as support in opinion polls plummets

TORY SUPPORT at the European parliament elections—and a possible general election—is collapsing.

Three opinion polls have shown the Tories on between 10 percent and 13 percent, with the Brexit Party far ahead.

In one poll they were fifth, behind the Brexit Party, Labour, Lib Dems and the Green Party.

Polls may be more than usually unreliable for an election where many people will not see the point of voting, and positions can fluctuate wildly.

But there's little doubt the Tories are facing near wipeout. The party plans to spend no money on candidate campaigning, will not publish a manifesto and is refusing to hold a launch.

One of the Tory candidates for the European Parliament elections described the mood on the campaign trail as “absolutely terrible”.

They added, “If May stands aside this week there may be something for her successor to

salvage. If not, we are looking at the end of the Conservative Party.”

Surveys suggest around three in five Tory members are planning to vote for Nigel Farage's Brexit Party.

The rot is so deep it is flowing into the Tories' prospects at a general election. A number of polls showed Labour first, Brexit second and the Tories third.

May was set to meet the executive of the Tories' 1922 committee of backbench MPs on Thursday this week. She was expected to face fresh pressure to

name a departure date.

If May does not set out a clear timetable for when she will go, the committee may look for ways to force her out. It could seek to change its rulebook to allow MPs to force a Tory leadership election sooner than the current permitted date of 12 December.

And in June she faces an unprecedented meeting of the National Conservative Convention to discuss her future.

It is the first such meeting of the party's local reps in the Tories' 185-year history.

The meeting was reportedly delayed so that May wouldn't be embarrassed ahead of Donald Trump's visit.

But the Tories' problems won't disappear when May goes. They are unpopular over Brexit but also because they have presided over nearly a decade of policies that have savaged ordinary people.

The issue—and the challenge for the whole of the left—is who will gain as they teeter on the verge of collapse.

Lib Dems work with the right to boot out Labour

THE Liberal Democrats are making dirty deals to remove Labour from control of councils in two of its traditionally stronghold areas.

Such moves should explode any lingering ideas that the Lib Dems are progressive.

They suggest that Lib Dem leaders would make another national coalition with the Tories if they thought it was in their interests, as they did in 2010.

Labour lost seats in both Bolton and Darlington at the recent elections, raising the issue of which party would now be leaders.

In Bolton, The Lib Dems are working with the racist Ukip party and independents to enable the Tories to take over.

The Labour group said, “Labour is still the largest party on Bolton council, but

minor parties have chosen to support Conservative power in our borough despite the Conservative Party obtaining fewer votes than Labour.”

In Darlington, the Lib Dems and a group of independents are set to allow the Tories to take control of the council. The Greens called for an administration run by all parties.

Meanwhile Jimmy Kent, chair of the Lib

Dems' Kingston-Upon-Thames constituency party, has defected to the Brexit Party. The Lib Dems are acting disgracefully.

But Labour has opened the door to the right wing.

Themes of the hypocritical Tory campaign in Darlington were the state of the town centre and the council's decision to outsource litter enforcement to a private company.

SNP could boost the bigots

THE Scottish National Party is leading strongly in opinion polls—by tying itself completely to the European Union (EU).

One recent poll put the SNP at 40 percent, Labour at 14 percent and the Tories at 10 percent.

That suggests the Tories will struggle to hold their sole European seat and Labour looks set to lose one of its two MEPs.

Launching the SNP campaign, Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon said voting SNP would send the message

begun campaigning in Scotland. Farage's group could become the focus if other forces are purely pro-EU rather than taking up wider class issues.

Labour's campaign has been lacklustre. And it hasn't been helped by right winger Ian Murray, its longest-serving Scottish MP, saying the party is full of “thugs and incompetents”.

Murray made the criticism in a leaked WhatsApp message after his ally Kezia Dugdale announced she was quitting the Scottish parliament.

Just another club for the rich

THE BREXIT Party boasts that it has united left and right, and has attracted people “from all walks of life”.

In reality it's a home for bosses and bigots.

Its candidate in the 6 June Peterborough by-election is Mike Greene.

He's a super-rich lifelong Tory and businessman whose

claim to fame is appearing on the Secret Millionaire TV show. Greene made his millions in retail—advising firms on people's shopping habits—and through property investments.

He's since launched a syndicate to advise other people on how to make money.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

A VOTE FOR LABOUR WILL INCREASE TORIES' CRISIS

THE TORIES are in near-terminal collapse. They cannot pass legislation, they cannot resolve Brexit and their supporters are jumping ship to the racists of the Brexit Party.

But Labour is also in trouble.

It's hard to tell now whether the person really in charge is Jeremy Corbyn or deputy leader Tom Watson.

Watson and his coterie simply make up policy. On Monday Watson declared that Labour was “a Remain and reform party”.

This junked Corbyn's line that Labour is still seeking a better Brexit than the one on offer from the Tories.

Shadow Brexit secretary Keir Starmer suggested that Labour now is in favour of a “confirmatory referendum” on any deal. This was exactly the policy recently defeated by the party's ruling national executive committee.

It's not just that Labour is facing two ways and satisfying nobody. It's that the party is paralysed. It's doing virtually nothing in the midst of a great social and political crisis.

Corbyn raised the Labour vote at the 2017 general election by an insurgent series of rallies and

campaigning. Now he is usually confined to members-only events.

Labour is reducing its own vote by its passivity, its weeks of talks with the Tories, and the decision by the majority of its European Parliament candidates to back a second referendum.

More importantly, together with the trade union leaders, they don't call the active mobilisations that could drive the Tories out.

In the vacuum that creates, racists of various types make the running.

The next few days matter. Labour could still launch a real fight that brings together the call for an anti-austerity and anti-racist Brexit with action over the NHS,

housing, climate chaos and other urgent issues.

But Corbyn's desperate effort to hold together his divided party make that very unlikely.

It is necessary to campaign every day against the racists and to vote on 23 May. Those on the left who suggest abstention—let alone those who line up with Farage—are playing with fire.

Perhaps they can tolerate the idea of a swathe of the Brexit Party, or Ukip, or Tommy Robinson, becoming MEPs.

But such an outcome won't be a boost for democracy. It will open the door to much broader, more confident and more vicious racist and Islamophobic mobilisation.

It will encourage racist attacks and set back the unity we need against the Tories and the bosses.

Socialist Worker calls on readers across Britain to vote Labour.

Many of the Labour candidates are rotten right wingers.

But the higher the vote for Labour, the greater the crisis for the Tories.

And the easier it will be to argue for the battles in the streets and the workplaces that we desperately need.

“Labour is doing virtually nothing in the midst of a great social and political crisis”

TELEVISION'S GRIM REALITY

THE JEREMY Kyle TV show has been suspended after a guest died just days after filming an episode.

Steven Dymond died in a suspected suicide. Friends and family report him being in extreme distress after filming the show.

It follows suicides by two former Love Island contestants in the past year. Sophie Gradon and Mike Thalassitis both appeared on the reality programme where contestants have to form romantic partnerships to win a cash prize.

Jeremy Kyle, Love Island and other programmes are based on ordinary people exposing their problems and vulnerabilities for the voyeuristic pleasure of viewers.

On Jeremy Kyle, the complicated lives of ordinary people are thrown up in the air.

Life-changing situations are reduced to sensationalist revelations to keep viewers watching.

Ordinary people in distress are pitted against each other. The real winners are channels that

are happy to charge a fortune for advertising time during the popular programmes.

TV psychologist Honey Langcaster-James defended “well meaning” producers.

But she said, “They don't always know what are good services, and what aren't good services or, for example, and what's the difference between a psychologist, a psychotherapist and a counsellor.”

Ignorance about providing mental health support is a poor excuse when people are dying.



ANALYSIS

ALISTAIR FARROW



US trade war makes all rivalries sharper

THE TRADE war between the US and China ratcheted up a notch over the past week.

Donald Trump on Monday increased tariffs on £250 billion of Chinese goods coming to the US from 10 percent to 25 percent. That's on top of last Friday's tariff increases on £150 billion of Chinese goods.

The total value of Chinese exports to the US that are affected now stands at £400 billion.

These are presented as new developments. But Trump had decided on his strategy at least a year ago.

Bob Woodward, in his book *Fear*, reports a spring 2018 exchange between Trump and his cyber security adviser Tom Bossert. They discussed the question of tariffs on Chinese imports.

"Trump's hands and fingers went up again. 'You tell them £115 billion. Wait! You tell them £115 billion is nothing. He's ready to go to £400 billion because he's tired of not being treated fairly. That's what you tell them.'"

Later in the same conversation Trump reportedly instructed Bossert to show the carrot after the stick.

"Then you say, 'It'll be all right because the relationship Trump has with Xi is so...'" A pause. A refinement.

"It's the best.' Wait! 'You've never seen such a good relationship between two presidents in your life. Maybe ever.'"

So Trump has a plan, but the danger of trade wars is that they can lead to cycles of retaliation. They can also stoke up other imperial rivalries, including military ones.

The current tariff increases do not apply to goods that are currently in transit. The average length of time it takes to ship goods from China to the US is three weeks. That means there are three weeks before the tariff hikes start to take effect.

And the G20 summit at the end of June gives Trump a chance to prove his "good relationship" with Chinese president Xi Jinping.

Trump is clearly milking the negotiations as part of his bid for re-election in the 2020 presidential elections.

Lucky

He suggested Chinese negotiators are waiting "to see if they could get lucky and have a Democrat win. The deal will become far worse for them if it has to be negotiated in my second term".

If Trump negotiates a bad deal for US capital, or no deal, it will be used to attack him in the election.

His bellicose grandstanding means Jinping will also be unwilling to back down. But Trump is relying on the relative strength of the US economy compared to China as a threat in his imperialist game of chicken.

And he is spurred on by an emboldened protectionist wing of the US ruling class.

Michael Sturmer, chief executive of the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA), said, "President Xi has now turned the trade doves against him by once again reversing past promises. And he underestimated the resolve of president Trump."

Disgracefully, the leadership of some US trade unions has cosied up to the protectionist elements of the US ruling class. The teamsters' union and the AFL-CIO trade union federation are among those have representatives on the CPA board.

They think there is a shared interest between US workers and bosses against Chinese firms exporting goods to the US. Such thinking has seen the hollowing out of many once-militant US trade unions.

Instead they should be looking to the US teachers' strikes as a way of winning, and to international solidarity rather than a sham national interest.

Meanwhile, the international ruling class is looking on at the trade war in horror.

The bosses' Financial Times newspaper is nervous. "The US is right to insist that China treat foreign investors equally," read its lead editorial on Monday. "It is also right to demand an elimination of subsidies to China's national champions."

But neither Trump nor Xi Jinping "should allow political ego to get in the way of a pragmatic truce". Trump, as so often, is playing for high stakes. But he doesn't care who loses so long as he boosts his own chances.



A LARGE crowd at the national Palestine Solidarity Campaign demonstration in London last week

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

Thousands show solidarity with Palestinians in London

by NICK CLARK

THOUSANDS OF people joined a national demonstration in London to show solidarity with Palestinians last Saturday.

The march was called by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) in support of the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

The refugees were expelled from their homes when Israel was created in 1948.

Some 850,000 were ethnically cleansed from the land 71 years ago in an event known as the "Nakba" or catastrophe.

Israel has refused to allow Palestinians to return and its racist laws exclude and discriminate against Arabs.

Supporters of Israel say demanding the right of return, or supporting a one-state solution, is antisemitic because it would mean the end of Israel as a Jewish state.

Exist

But protester Maj said, "Palestinians have the right to return—they have the right to exist. Israel has no right to dictate to them where they can live—it's their land."

Another protester, Jaymain, said, "Palestine has always been a place where people of different faiths and races have lived together."

"So why shouldn't the

Palestinians be allowed to live there?"

The march was bigger than many had expected. PSC chair Kamel Hawwash said that more than 10,000 people had joined it.

It was a sign that many activists have not been intimidated by attempts to discredit solidarity with Palestine.

And speakers talked of how Palestinians continue to resist.

Ben Jamal, PSC director, pointed to how Palestinians had demonstrated at the



Palestinian activist Ahed Tamimi spoke at the protest

Gaza fence for over a year to demand the right to return.

He promised that supporters of the Palestinians would stick with them "until you achieve your birth right—freedom and equality in your historic homeland."

Boycott

Some speakers called on demonstrators to support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign. This includes a boycott of the Eurovision Song Contest being held in Israel this year.

Others said people should join the Palestine solidarity bloc on the demonstration against US president Donald Trump's June visit to Britain.

Ahed Tamimi—the Palestinian teenager who became famous after she was jailed for slapping an Israeli soldier who entered her home—was welcomed with a huge cheer.

She told marchers, "It was your voices that kept me strong in the Israeli prison. I thank you for your support and solidarity."

But she added that she didn't want the story of the Palestinians to be one of "victimhood".

"We choose to struggle for freedom and justice," she said. "We choose to be freedom fighters. From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

For a longer version go to bit.ly/Paldemo

Trump sells dodgy deal

A FORMER Israeli military chief has warned that Palestinian resistance could "ignite" against a US-backed attempt to rob Palestinian land in the West Bank.

Former Israeli Defence Force chief of staff Gadi Eisenkot reportedly warned top US officials of the "volatile" situation in the West Bank.

He is said to have told US envoy Jason Greenblatt that "the

West Bank is likely to ignite" over a coming supposed "peace deal". US president Donald Trump's "deal of the century" is likely to deny Palestinian statehood and hand more land to Israel. It is also said to leave the remaining, fragmented Palestinian land under Israeli military control.

But the Palestinian Authority, which governs the West Bank, has said it will reject the deal.



Donald Trump

Edson was 'choking' as he was held by five cops

Witness told inquest into death of Edson Da Costa that police 'acted like wrestlers', reports **Sadie Robinson**

AN INQUEST jury has heard that Edir Da Costa, known as Edson, was "choking" as five cops were on top of him during a stop.

Edson died after being stopped by police in Beckton, east London, on 15 June 2017. Claude Greenaway was travelling in a car with him at the time. He said Edson was "not trying to resist" while he was on the ground.

"I think he was already choking," Claude told the jury at Walthamstow Coroner's Court on Thursday of last week.

The court heard that one officer had Edson in a headlock and another kned him in the side. "He was shaking," said Claude. "They were big guys. They were acting like it was WWF. I relive it every day. I have nightmares about it."

Sprayed

Claude said one officer sprayed CS gas into Edson's face. He saw something coming out of Edson's mouth. When he told officers to call an ambulance he was told that they knew what they were doing.

"I kept saying, 'You've killed him, you've killed him,'" he said.

Neil Saunders, representing the officers who stopped Edson, suggested that Edson was "rugby tackled" to the ground as he tried to flee.

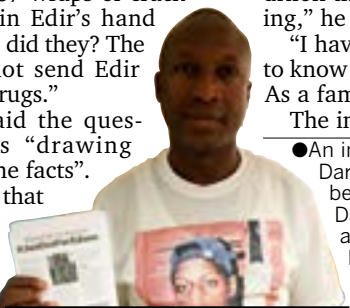
Claude agreed there was nothing to indicate that Edson was choking during restraint.

He didn't agree that two officers used "distraction" blows.

John Beggs QC, representing the Metropolitan Police, said, "The police did not put 87 wraps of crack and heroin in Edir's hand that evening, did they? The police did not send Edir out to deal drugs."

Claude said the questioning was "drawing away from the facts".

He denied that he, Edson and Jussara Gomes, who was driving the



Edson's father Ginario

BACK STORY

Edir Da Costa, known as Edson, died after being stopped by police in Beckton, east London, on 15 June 2017

● An inquest into his death began last week

● The jury at Walthamstow Coroner's Court has heard evidence from a witness who was travelling in the same car

car, were linked to the "Portuguese Mafia" gang.

Coroner Nadia Persaud told the court that intelligence linking Edson to the gang is "untested".

She said that before being restrained Edson "put a number of wraps containing drugs in his mouth". She said this version of events may change as evidence is given to the inquest.

A statement from Edson's father Ginario described Edson as a "clean-living boy" who made some "bad" friendships when he was around 18 years old.

Ginario said Edson's mother, who had lived in Portugal, was prevented from attending Edson's funeral because she was refused a visa.

"I think this was too much for her," he said.

The jury heard that she was found drowned in a river following Edson's death.

Ginario described seeing Edson after his death. "No parent should have to see their child in the condition that I saw Edson that morning," he said.

"I have waited almost two years to know what happened to my boy. As a family we deserve answers."

The inquest continues.

● An inquest into the death of Darren Cumberbatch is set to begin on Tuesday 28 May. Darren died after being arrested by police in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, in July 2017. The inquest is expected to last between three and four weeks

Climate



On the Mothers Rise Up demonstration over climate change in London last weekend

Thousands join Extinction Rebellion march as activists appear in court

THOUSANDS OF climate change activists marched through central London last Sunday.

Called by Extinction Rebellion (XR) and Mothers Rise Up, organisers say 2,500 marched to demand urgent action on climate change.

The event was called on International Mothers Day, 12 May. It was led by children who will be in their 20s by 2030, the deadline to avoid catastrophic climate change advised by the IPCC climate scientists' body.

Mothers Rise Up founder Catherine Webb said, "Together we are not powerless. This mums' group is just a group of ordinary mums."

"We want what every parent wants, we want the best for our kids, a liveable world for them to grow up in."

That should not be too much to ask. We call on business leaders, on politicians, those with power to use it—you've all got a chance to be heroes here."

Rosamund Kissi-Debrah, the mother of Ella, who died from an asthma attack believed to be linked to air pollution, spoke at the rally.

Rosamund said a fresh inquest had just been granted into how pollution impacted Ella's "very, very horrible death".

"We don't have ten years, eleven years or twelve years. For people with breathing difficulty the urgency is now. If you deal with air pollution, it also means you deal with climate change," she said.

The march came days after Roger Hallam, an XR founder, was cleared of criminal damage.

Daubed

Hallam appeared alongside fellow activist David Durant on charges relating to a protest about fossil fuel divestment at King's College, London. They daubed internal walls of the college's Great Hall in February 2017.



David Durant and Roger Hallam

Although they didn't deny the actions, a jury at Southwark crown court in south London acquitted Hallam on two charges and Durant of one charge.

During the three day trial—where they represented themselves—they argued that their actions were defensible because the threat to the climate is so severe.

"Chalk on the wall is obviously less important than the impending catastrophe for the planet," said Durant outside the court.

The judge ruled that the issue of climate change was "irrelevant" to the case. But Hallam argued that their actions were proportionate to the scale of the climate and ecological crisis.

So far 69 people have been charged in relation to XR's International Rebellion fortnight of protests. Eight months since the launch of XR's campaign of civil disobedience, scores more activists are going through legal cases.

Each activist should be given the fullest legal resources, financial support and political solidarity throughout this process.

Sarah Bates



AUSTRALIA

Tory climate deniers on the way out

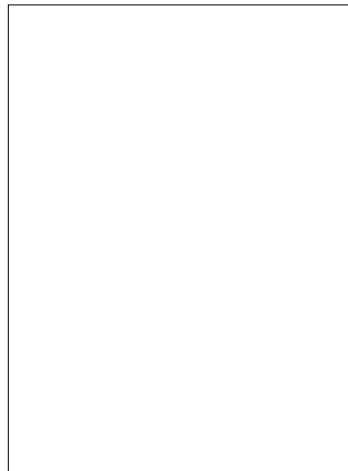
AUSTRALIA'S LIBERAL (Tory) government faces defeat in elections on 18 May as the Labor Party tacks to the left.

Over six years and three separate prime ministers, the Tories have waged war on working class people.

Now even their racist scare tactics are failing to claw back votes. Earlier this year, the government wasted millions of dollars reopening the Christmas Island detention centre.

But most people now oppose the government's torture of refugees on the islands of Manus and Nauru.

The Tories are deeply divided—particularly over climate change. Many Tory MPs are outright climate deniers and



Prime minister Scott Morrison—a shill for the coal industry

fanatical defenders of the coal industry.

Prime minister Scott Morrison even waved around a lump of coal in parliament to taunt climate activists.

The success of the school climate strikes here was one indication of the growing desire for action on climate change.

Labor hopes to tap into the disgust at stagnant wages as corporate profits soar and has presented itself as the party of climate action.

But Labor has refused to oppose the Adani coal mine, the target of a long-running environmental campaign.

There will be widespread celebration if the Tories lose. But Labor's promises aren't anywhere near enough.

High school climate activists are talking about calling another walkout for September.

Whether over climate change, refugees or union rights, we will need more of this kind of action to win real change.

James Supple

James Supple is a member of Solidarity, Socialist Worker's sister organisation in Australia

Generals in Sudan fear sit-ins can unseat them

by ANNE ALEXANDER

A MONTH after protests forced out dictator Omar al Bashir, the fate of Sudan's revolution remains on a knife-edge.

Opposition forces called for a major escalation in protests to back their demands for a civilian-led government last Saturday.

But the Transitional Military Council (TMC), the gang of generals who ditched al Bashir amid mass protests, has tried to head off moves to dilute their power.

It's clear that what they most fear and loathe is the sight of ordinary people organising.

The council's deputy head, war criminal General Hemedti, said it was willing to negotiate with opposition groups—but described the mass sit-ins as “chaos”.

Starting with the gigantic sit-in outside the general command in the capital Khartoum on 6 April, occupations sprung up in major cities.

Muawwiyya Ahmed Kessinger is a member of the revolutionary committees at the general command sit-in. He told Socialist Worker, “We began to discuss how to make an organised body of revolutionaries.

“It was spontaneous at first, but quickly became a more cohesive organisation.”

The sit-ins are a serious threat to the military council—and show how ordinary people can begin to build new forms of democracy during revolutions.

Muawwiyya explained that seven different committees coordinate the sit-in. He said, “The protection committee was formed first on 6 April to protect the protesters by running security checkpoints.

“This was to prevent individuals from the regime's security forces getting access to the sit-in and causing a disturbance.”

Volunteers

At the moment the revolutionary committees are made up of volunteers, not elected bodies.

Yet the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA) has proposed that 30 percent of seats in a transitional parliament should come from resistance and change committees.

These elected bodies appeared in many neighbourhoods to mobilise support for the protests.

Yet at the same time, the SPA are also trying to convince the old regime to reform itself from the top.

The TMC has proposed a presidential council to run the country until elections, but it is resisting demands to make civilian representatives the majority.

So the opposition isn't encouraging workers and civil servants to take matters into their own hands and purge their workplaces and

PROTESTERS OUTSIDE the Sudanese military's general command

government institutions of regime officials.

As Muawwiyya explained, “The cleansing campaigns would distract people from the task of forming a civilian government.

“Cleansing the state of members of the former regime will be left to the civilian government.”

The Sudanese generals aren't going to reform themselves out of power. The army is deeply embedded in Sudan's economy and have been able to seize massive amounts of the state's wealth.

Protests on their own are unlikely to tip the balance in favour of the revolutionaries.

But mass political strikes could begin to shake the regime—and workers have already begun to show their support for the revolution.

Striking dockers blockaded Port Sudan last Saturday while sugar workers began a sit-in to demand action against their corrupt bosses.

Workers' councils are a logical next step for revolutionaries.

Unlike neighbourhood-based committees, they could bring the ports, railways, telecommunications networks and other sectors under the democratic authority of the revolutionary movement.

This would take them out of the hands of the existing state and be a force to drive through revolutionary change.

Longer version at bit.ly/SudanSitIns

ALGERIA

Protest, repression and debates about the state

THE ALGERIAN regime is using both concessions and repression in an effort to stabilise its rule, but huge protests and strikes continue.

Tens of thousands came out in Algiers last Friday to demand more than military ruler general Gaid Salah is offering.

And thousands came out in other cities across the country, including Constantine, Annaba, Oran, Tizi Ouzou and elsewhere.

The regime has scheduled an election for 4 July, but many people are demanding independently-run elections.

It is unlikely Gaid Salah will allow this.

Debates about how to tackle the power of the state are increasingly coming to the front of public debate.

The Algerian ruling class is trying to control the movement from below by placating it

Key figures of former ruler Abdelaziz Bouteflika's clique were rounded up. His brother

Said Bouteflika is in prison

Said has also been sent down.

Algerian academic Ismael Meraaf said, “These steps are presented as being in line with the people's demands.

“But Salah was himself part of this group of criminals and protected them.”

And in addition the army is taking the opportunity to get rid of its opponents.

Workers Party leader Louisa Hanoune has been arrested on the same charges as Said Bouteflika.

Longer version at bit.ly/AlgeriaState

Sats set us up for work

SATS TESTS are damaging to the wellbeing of young people forced to go through them and do not provide useful information regarding their development.

But usefulness was never the point behind their imposition.

They are a means of acclimatising young people to the alienating nature of work in a capitalist economy before they enter the labour force.

Workers who have learnt from their formative years that life is about chasing impossible targets are less likely to organise and demand fair treatment.

No society can flourish when its people are alienated from their work and from each other.

We need the creation of an education system that respects craft and promotes collaborative working.

Adam Colclough
Stoke

Waste plans up in smoke

SWANSEA residents have won their fight against an application to build an incinerator by Biffa.

The campaign involved the whole community with over 2,500 objections sent, protests and leaflets.

On the day of the council decision, Swansea Extinction Rebellion chained the gates of the Biffa plant closed.

Hundreds of people turned up to protest outside the meeting.

The application was rejected unanimously.

Alan Thomson
Swansea

No title—but entitled to a life of privilege

IT WAS reported last week that mothers are struggling to buy cots and prams for their babies because of the cuts in Universal Credit.

In the same week, a baby was born into a family with a much different relationship with state benefits.

The media are celebrating a baby who will never do a day's work, but will live in luxury at the expense of those who do.



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Carl Benjamin is the ugly new face of alt-right Ukip

UKIP HAS come out of its dusty corner for the European Parliament elections, with new ideas and representatives that even its former leader Nigel Farage condemns.

One of these is YouTuber Carl Benjamin—aka Sargon of Akkad—one of Ukip's candidates in the South West for the European elections.

Benjamin disgustingly tweeted to Labour MP Jess Phillips, claiming that he “wouldn't even rape her”. Not only did he refuse to apologise, in April this year he added in a YouTube video, “with enough pressure, I might cave”.

Benjamin explains his unapologetic position on the tweet due to the fact that he said he “wouldn't”. This claim of

innocence falls through when you listen to the “political ideas” that Benjamin explores on his YouTube channel.

Sargon of Akkad, with almost one million subscribers, is a troll channel.

Most of its success comes from anti-feminist ideas alongside “scepticisms of modern society”.

The name Sargon of Akkad supposedly comes from a “love of history and the lessons it teaches us”.

That's contradicted by claims such as that sexual and violent assaults against women are on the rise because modern feminism suppresses men.

Or that assault is due to single mothers not being able to raise

children with awareness of consent. Or that women have always had a dominant role in society, but their transition into politics is what is destroying society itself.

Benjamin continuously sympathises with abusers, rapists and paedophiles, while consistently blaming victims for any assault they have experienced.

He is always proclaiming his right to free speech, which he is granted through his YouTube channel.

That channel is used to slander women and minorities.

That's the true intent of right wingers fighting for “free speech”.

Abigail Head
Bristol

Capitalism hits the bees

ONE IRONY of being a beekeeper is that it's easier to keep bees in a town than in most of the countryside.

This is because much of the countryside is a toxic green desert.

Capitalist monoculture means ripping up hedgerows and spraying fields with herbicides, fungicides and pesticides which damage bees and the wider ecosystem.

If there are flowering



It's easier to keep bees in cities and towns than in the countryside

plants, they're all the same and they all flower at the same time.

It's like a human eating unlimited Big Macs for one month and nothing for the rest of the year. It's not as if most farmers

benefit from this. It's the banks, agro-chemical companies and supermarket chains that make huge profits from a collapsing ecosystem.

Adam Rose, urban beekeeper
Manchester

Just a thought...

Is Robinson really a Nazi?

YOUR DOSSIER on Tommy Robinson last week called him a Nazi (Socialist Worker 8 May).

He is a thug but I think it's over exaggerating to call him a Nazi.

Andres Viveros
On Facebook

■ HE WAS in a Nazi party. He says Nazi things.

He organised violent street protests. He will lie to get publicity, like Nazis do—and Nazi murderers admire him.

Colin Surrell
On Facebook

Fight racists everywhere

GOOD FRONT page last week—we can't let the racists and fascists win (Socialist Worker 8 May).

Elections are one form of fighting and another part is to deter them on the streets.

Cahit Cetinkaya
On Facebook

Take all the racists off air

I'M GLAD that Danny Baker's been taken off the airwaves for a racist joke about the royal baby.

Maybe now the BBC can see its way to banning the racist Nigel Farage too.

Lindsey Ortiz
Inverness

Solar, so bad for parliament

TWO WEEKS ago parliament passed a motion declaring a “climate emergency”.

Last week the government raised the VAT tax on the installation of solar panels on houses.

Seems we can't trust the politicians to tackle climate change for us.

Emily Sawyer
Basingstoke

Kop that, Theresa May

THE SERIOUSLY deluded Theresa May compared her handling of Brexit with Liverpool FC's stunning 4-0 victory over Barcelona.

Not at all. Unlike Liverpool “You'll always walk alone,” Theresa May.

Sasha Simic
East London



Manchester Stand Up To Racism activists leaflet Piccadilly rail station

PICTURES: GUY SHILLMAN

Nazi Tommy Robinson is waging a war to become North West England's next MEP. **Tomáš Tengely-Evans** reports on the campaign to stop him

ANTI-RACISTS are taking to the streets to stop Nazi Tommy Robinson becoming an MEP. Socialists, trade unionists, students and other campaigners have faced threats, intimidation and violence at the hands of Robinson and his thug allies as they drum up support.

Robinson is pitching himself as someone who will speak up for ordinary people—but the fascist bully is a threat to everyone in the working class.

This weekend, 18 and 19 May, supporters of Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) and Unite Against Fascism (UAF) are set to take part in days of action across the region.

Anti-racists have put their stamp on the campaign by handing out tens of thousands of leaflets. And activists are meeting many who come up to take leaflets or ask how they can get involved in the campaign.

"Tommy Robinson is a hate monger," passerby Daryl told Socialist Worker during a leafletting session in central Manchester.

"I have grandchildren who are mixed race—I don't want them to live in that sort of world," he said.

A win for Robinson—or even a large vote—would boost every fascist and racist in Britain. Some are opposing Robinson's vicious racist campaign because "You have to fight against fascism wherever it is".

"The fascists across Europe and the US are linked right now" said Vasco, a Portuguese migrant living in Manchester.

He called for everyone to "Demonstrate, get together, and stop them" in the run-up the election—and beyond.

The days of action are an opportunity for a big push before voting takes place the following Thursday.

The campaign has gained support of Labour's shadow education secretary Angela Rayner, local Labour MPs, Labour MEP Julie Ward and Len McCluskey of the Unite union.

SUTR has organised mass leafletting sessions of transport hubs, hospitals, mosques, shopping centres

and football grounds. Material has been distributed to Constituency Labour Parties and trade union branches across Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside.

Robinson is trying to target working class estates and to paint himself as the voice of ordinary people.

When he travelled to Brinnington, Stockport, residents rejected "that Nazi coming on our estate and causing hatred" as "the last thing" they need.

Resident Layla argues that "we all need to vote against him".

"I don't want a fascist bully representing me, my family or area. Brinnington is a community with every walk of life and we will come together to stop him" she said.

And SUTR activists said when they organised a mass leafletting in the area they were met with "a fab response" despite intimidation from Robinson's crew.

Mark said, "A car with Nazis followed us, but we had loads of passerby waving and saying 'hi', happy to see us."

With less than two weeks to go until the election, it's crucial for all anti-racists to get out onto the streets to campaign to stop Robinson.



Alice Edwards
LGBT+ activist,
Warrington, Cheshire

ROBINSON CLEARLY showed thuggish his behaviour with the attacks in Warrington, when his supporter Danny Tommo broke my nose. If you stand up for LGBT+ people like you claim, why would you

WHY FAR RIGHT THREATS AND VIOLENCE WON'T STOP THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TOMMY ROBINSON



BATTLEGROUND NORTH WEST



Manzoor Ali
Food aid worker in
Chorlton, Manchester

IF ROBINSON is elected it won't be long before mosques are

burning—and then it will be the synagogues.

We can't be complacent. Robinson is a racist, an Islamophobe, and just a really nasty piece of work.

If we're pushed, we have to push back ten times harder. We've got to get people out—enough is enough.

Tommy Robinson says he's on the side of working class people. But I'm an ordinary working class person—and he's not standing up for me, so he's lying from the off.

His supporters are fuelled by a hatred of Muslims and Islam. Sometimes Robinson says he's targeting the ideology not

Muslims, but when people look at me I am Islam, I am the ideology.

If Robinson wins, many closet racists would feel that they had been given the green light, because their leader was elected by the people.

If British National Party (BNP) leader Nick Griffin could get elected in 2009, so can Robinson.

He has a bigger name and more powerful backers—including people who support the US government.

I was talking to my friend about when the National Front (NF) were organising in Manchester in the 1970s and '80s. It took the

black community to stand up. When they came out in the riots in 1981, it was the end of the NF.

What Robinson is doing affects Muslims more and Muslims need to step up. The Muslim community now needs to come out and tackle Robinson.



Vienna says leafletting can be scary at first but you soon gain confidence



Rabnawaz Akbar
Labour councillor,
Rusholme, Manchester

WE KNOW that vast majority of people in the North West of England are not racist—so we need to raise awareness and get people to vote on 23 May.

There's a lot of apathy around the European elections and disgruntlement about how Brexit has been handled. With less people voting, it could increase the proportion of the vote that Robinson gets.

Because of proportional representation, it's possible to get elected as an MEP on a relatively small number of votes.

We're especially targeting BME communities to come out—a bit like they did in 2014 when we got rid of Nick Griffin.

Muslim communities already feel vulnerable to Tommy Robinson's type of politics—especially women who are visibly Muslim because of what they wear.

If Robinson was elected, many Muslims would feel that people they live alongside or work with share his views.

They would feel even more vulnerable—and that is not the type of message we need out of the European elections.

On Sunday Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) was outside Old Trafford football ground for the premier league game between Manchester United and Cardiff.

We were leafletting the fans to encourage them to vote and to denounce Robinson's politics.

I'm a Labour Party member. And when I've been out, I say that I would like people to vote for Labour—but the main thing is they vote.



Vienna Borowska
Love Music Hate
Racism, Manchester

IF ROBINSON wins it will embolden people who are prejudiced or have racist views. And being an MEP would give him a platform and make people feel that what he says is okay.

We've had a really great response leafletting against Tommy Robinson at Manchester Piccadilly station.

I got involved with Love Music Hate Racism after hearing about SUTR at a Momentum rally a couple of years ago.

It's not hard to help out. Giving out leaflets might be scary at first—it's how I found it—and you might get a few "Noes" before someone takes a leaflet.

But I would encourage people to get involved.



Allan Todd
Green Party and
Unite Against
Fascism member,
Keswick, Cumbria

A RESIDUAL fascist swamp still exists on the west coast of Cumbria—one of the last strongholds for the BNP.

I was at the Allerdale borough

council count during the local elections last week and one chap who was in the BNP was elected as an independent candidate.

There's a danger during this campaign that there will be activity in Manchester, Liverpool and other cities, but not much along the west coast.

We have to be mindful that in 2009 the BNP's Nick Griffin wouldn't have been elected if the turnout had been just a little bit higher.

Robinson's side is prepared to turn out and vote—and they only need around 100,000 votes—and that's not that many across the whole region.

Although Tommy Robinson is banned from Twitter and Facebook, he's on alternative social media. We're not going to get onto the mainstream media. So we need the same things that we did against Griffin—mass leafletting of all the hotspot areas.

Some say we shouldn't give him the publicity, but he's got name recognition anyway.

And it's better to stop him and not let him have a bigger platform.



Tony Wilson
Unicon union national
executive member for
the North West (pc)

ROBINSON HAS a violent and racist past with the BNP and EDL. We were stuck with Griffin for five years after he was elected in 2009. And if Robinson gets elected it will be a boon for the right again.

Whether people voted Leave or Remain, we've got to kick racism out of the election.

If you're a trade unionist, talk to people in your workplace. If you're in a community group, put stuff up in the notice boards and get on social media.

I've been leafletting Manchester Piccadilly station during the past week and we've had a good response from people. Some already know about the campaign.

The danger is that he could get elected with just 8 percent of the vote. And Robinson is standing as an independent, so people might not know that he is far right. We've got to expose what he stands for.

Join the weekend of
opposition to Tommy
Robinson in the North West

● Activity across the region
including Carlisle, Preston, Crewe,
Liverpool and Manchester
● For details go to
bit.ly/StopTrinNW

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

BRADFORD

System change not climate change

Wed 29 May, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane
(opposite the ice rink),
BD5 0BQ

BRIGHTON & HOVE

Know your enemy—alt-right, the far right and fascists

Thu 30 May, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

LONDON:TOWER HAMLETS

From the Nakba to the Great March of Return—eyewitness from Palestine

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
Weavers Community Forum,
10 Shacklewell St,
E2 7EG

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

No borders! Why immigration controls are racist

Mon 20 May, 6pm,
Belmont Cinema Cafe,
49 Belmont St,
AB10 1JS

BARNLEY

Imperialism in the Middle East—what's happening in Yemen?

Thu 23 May, 7pm,
Room 302, The Civic,
Hanson St,
S70 2HZ

BOLTON

Zombie capitalism—why is the system failing?

Wed 22 May, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

BRISTOL

Do we need violence to get rid of capitalism?

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
YHA,
14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Youth revolts

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CHESTERFIELD

Sudan and Algeria—resistance, revolt and revolution

Thu 23 May, 7pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

COVENTRY

Why is there world hunger in 2019?

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
The Golden Cross,
8 Hay Ln,
CV1 5RF

EDINBURGH

System change not climate change

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St,
EH1 2JL

EXETER

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Wed 22 May, 7pm,
The Exeter Peace Shop,
31 New Bridge St,
EX4 3AH

GLASGOW

If elections don't change anything—why vote?

Thu 23 May, 7pm,
Avant Garde,
33-44 King St,
Merchant City,
G1 5QT

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS



FARAGE'S AGENDA is racist, despite his claims to be concerned about democracy

The Euro elections, Tory crisis and the struggle against racism

BRISTOL

Wed 29 May, 7.30pm,
YHA,
14 Narrow Quay,
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LONDON:HARINGEY

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney
Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd
(corner Vincent Rd),
N15 3QH

LONDON:ISLINGTON

Wed 29 May, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St,
N7 6QT

LONDON:KINGSTON

Thu 30 May, 6.30pm,
Kingston Quaker Centre,
Fairfield East, KT1 2PT

LONDON:TOWER HAMLETS

Wed 29 May, 7.30pm,
Weavers Community Forum,
10 Shacklewell St, E2 7EG

LONDON:WEST & NORTH WEST

Thur, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community
Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush,
W12 7DZ

MANCHESTER:CENTRAL

Wed 29 May, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

YORK

Wed 29 May, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

SHEFFIELD:CITY CENTRE

Thurs 30 May, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near
Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

HUDDERSFIELD

Sudan and Algeria—resistance, revolt and revolution

Wed 22 May, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade, HD1 5JP

LEEDS:CITY CENTRE

Prevent, 'British values' and institutional racism

Thu 23 May, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LIVERPOOL

The Nakba to the Great March of Return—how can Palestine be free?

Thu 23 May, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
22 School Ln, L1 3BT

LONDON:HACKNEY

Knife crime—why are young people killing each other?

Thu 23 May, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON:NEWHAM

Can the Green New Deal stop climate change?

Wed 22 May, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next
to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON:TOWER HAMLETS

From the Nakba to the Great March of Return—eyewitness from Palestine

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
Weavers Community Forum,
10 Shacklewell St, E2 7EG

LONDON:WALTHAM FOREST

Why we hate Mondays—Marxism and alienation

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow,
E17 6QQ

LONDON:WEST & NORTH WEST

The Yellow Vests and the fight against Macron

Thu 23 May, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community
Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush,
W12 7DZ

MANCHESTER:CENTRAL

Sudan and Algeria—resistance, revolt and revolution

Wed 22 May, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

NEWCASTLE

Irish civil rights 50 years on—how has Ireland changed?

Wed 29 May, 7pm,
Floor 2, Commercial
Union House,
39 Pilgrim St,
NE1 6QE

NORWICH

The Stephen Lawrence Report 20 years on—why does institutional racism still exist?

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

OXFORD

Can we build a sustainable, socialist society?

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
Restore Building,
Manzil Way,
OX4 1YH

SCARBOROUGH

The Nakba to the Great March of Return—how can Palestine be free?

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
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SHEFFIELD:CITY CENTRE

The Stephen Lawrence Report 20 years on—why does institutional racism still exist?

Thu 23 May, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near
Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

Decolonising the curriculum—what is the legacy of empire?

Wed 29 May, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd,
The Polygon,
SO15 2GY

SWANSEA

Irish civil rights 50 years on—how has Ireland changed?

Thu 23 May, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

TELFORD

Trump, environmental crisis, growth of the far right—what's the socialist alternative?

Wed 12 Jun, 7.30pm,
Carriages,
The Parade,
Wellington,
TF1 1PY

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Fascism, free speech and hate speech

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
Light House,
Suite 16,
Chubb Buildings,
Fryer St,
WV1 1HT

YORK

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Wed 22 May, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

GLOBAL

Climate strike for the future

Fri 24 May, 11am
Parliament Square and
locations nationwide
bit.ly/24Maystrike

LONDON

Not the Eurovision—party for Palestine

Sat 18 May, 8.30pm-3am
Favela London,
65 Crowndale Road,
NW1 1TN

NATIONAL

Forum—how can we stop the far right across Europe?

Sat 1 June, 1pm,
National Education Union,
Hamilton House, Mabledon Pl,
WC1H 9BD
Hosted by Stand Up To Racism

NATIONAL

Together against Trump—stop the state visit

Tue 4 June, 12 noon
Central London
bit.ly/TrumpJune

NATIONAL

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Mile End Campus,
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isj.org.uk/race-class-and-identity

A tale of love and last meals bridges the divide in the US

Campaigners on either side of the death row protest movement find love despite big political differences and in difficult circumstances, writes **Toni Bruce**

LUCY (Ellen Page) and Mercy (Kate Mara) are two young women who forge an unexpected friendship and romance which cuts across intense political lines.

Lucy is a staunch anti-death penalty campaigner. Mercy is for it after her cop father's partner was killed.

The film follows Lucy and her two siblings as they travel through the arresting American landscape in an old Winnebago campervan. They travel to stand in sadness and solidarity at different prison gates as the executions happen inside.

Early on we discover the reason why the family are so committed to attending the protests. Their father is on death row for a crime they are convinced he did not commit.

What follows is a race against time to prove his innocence, peppered with the confusion of an unfurling relationship between Lucy and Mercy.

Passionate moments are interwoven with jarring clashes over the death penalty. The film is punctuated with stylistic shots of the inmates' "last meal", in place of seeing the prisoners themselves.

These haunting stand-alone shots highlight the inhumane tragedy of the death row prisoner. Human lives are taken by the state and reduced to a final meal on a plastic tray.

Power

These shots zero in on the absurdity surrounding the tray's existence.

They are byproducts of a brutal justice system. The state grants itself the power to kill human beings, exonerating themselves by providing a cruel joke dressed up as generosity.

The deft, emotional weight the film holds owes a lot to these quiet, bird's-eye views of these tragic meals.

With the subject matter, this film had the potential to be outstanding. Ultimately, though, it falls short.

It feels a little clunky, with many topics crammed together and not dissected properly. The viewer is also left with a slightly disjointed feeling of disbelief.

With Lucy's father on death row, it seems incredibly unlikely that she would fall so quickly for someone who holds pro-death penalty views.

But the film holds the weight of a tender portrait of love found over political and class lines. At times it mesmerises with profound tenderness and a confused intimacy.

This is a worthwhile and thought provoking film but, with such a contentious issue at its core, more could have been made of it.

My Days of Mercy is on limited release from 17 May

FILM



ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ is held up as a symbol of change

Painting the Democrats as progressive

KNOCK DOWN The House tells the story of four women standing in the 2018 US mid-term elections.

It focuses largely on Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez who stunned America with a 57 percent win over establishment Democrat Joe Crowley in June 2018 in an internal party election.

All four of the women in the film come from working class backgrounds, and their experiences illuminate some of the horrors of American capitalism.

Prohibited

Amy Vilela of Nevada lost her daughter due to laws prohibiting her from staying on her parents' health insurance policy after reaching 21.

Paula Jean Swearingin ran in West Virginia hoping to change the lives of residents in the coal mining village where she was raised.

The class background of these

candidates, combined with prevailing attitudes towards women in politics, makes Knock Down The House an important viewing experience.

The film is also part of the Democrats' strategy to paint the party as progressive policies.

Meanwhile the party remains a party of US capitalism, committed to racist division and attacking working class people.

The film misses a few tricks. Ocasio-Cortez is immensely watchable, but she did not win on her own.

A broader focus on the teams behind these candidates, and the social movements that spurred them on, would have added more depth.

Knock Down The House talks up grassroots movements. However, most of the film is spent focusing on Ocasio-Cortez.

Little screen time is given to other candidates. Although Cortez was the only winner, as much can be learnt from losses as victories.

Sadly, the least screen time was given to the African-American candidate Cori Bush, who ran in Missouri.

This emphasis takes away from the experiences of women living in more conservative parts of the US.

Knock Down The House is an uplifting film despite the focus on electoral politics and the Democratic Party.

Gabby Thorpe

Knock Down the House is available on Netflix



Cori Bush

THEATRE

Class act feels a bit familiar

WORKING CLASS parents square off against a middle class teacher in *Class*, a new play by Iseult Golden and David Horan.

Set in a Dublin school, the action centres on the conflict between parents Donna and Brian (Sarah Morris and Stephen Jones) and Ray McAfferty (Will O'Connell), their son Jayden's teacher. Morris and Jones also skilfully play the parents' son Jayden and his classmate Kaylie.

Allegiances shift quickly.

Some of the blows aimed at the education system land squarely. "Once they decide you're bad news that's the end of it—you're fucked," argues Brian.

Examination of relationships is a key way class differences are illustrated. Donna and Brian's relationship is in freefall—and publicly—despite Brian's attempts to disguise it. Staid Ray's relationship breakdown happens in private.

For all its defences of working class people, the play falls back on stereotypes. Brian is the angry mechanic and taxi driver with a thick accent and Ray is the moralising, earnest teacher. These are well-worn characters.

Blackmail

A happy break from the stereotyped class confrontation between the two men is Donna's interjection to Brian, "You condescending prick—you're just as bad as him," in response to his emotional blackmail.

Where *Class* is at its strongest is in its wit and observations of personal frailty. It falls when it tries to make deeper points about the state of education.

This is partly because it locates the fundamental division in the classroom between teacher and parent. Senior management is a restraining influence on Ray's zealous do-goodery rather than a body perpetuating the class divisions Brian rails against.

The strong performances can't quite pull together the disparate elements of the script, but bring out the best in it.

Alistair Farrow

Class is at The Bush Theatre in Shepherd's Bush, London, until 1 June

SOUTH Africa's election results are a damning verdict on the ruling African National Congress (ANC). As early voting took place last week, people protested against poverty and inequality.

They blocked roads in Khayelitsha in Cape Town, Plettenberg Bay in the Western Cape and Umlazi near Durban. Two nearby community halls, meant to be used as voting stations, were torched.

"We've been forgotten," said one protester. "Voting ANC is like digging your own grave."

The ANC won 57 percent of the vote, down from 62 percent five years ago—and 70 percent in 2004. Even this understates the ANC's decline. A low turnout and millions of people not registering to vote meant that just 27 percent of those who could have voted backed the ANC. In 1994 that figure was 54 percent.

The party has failed to transform South Africa in the interests of the workers and the poor since the end of apartheid racial segregation in 1994.

Elizabeth Hashe from Soweto near Johannesburg said, "The ANC will claim victory but it is rotting. This is another big step towards its removal from government."

The removal of Jacob Zuma as ANC leader and state president last year saved the ANC from an even more serious fall in its vote. Zuma presided over systematic corruption and looting from the state.

The super-rich Gupta family had business connections to Zuma and his family. A string of witnesses said the Guptas had influence over lucrative state contracts and appointments.

By 2017 mass protests and sit-ins were calling for Zuma's removal. They came around the same time as "fees must fall" student protests that followed movements over university racism and exclusions.

Tortuous

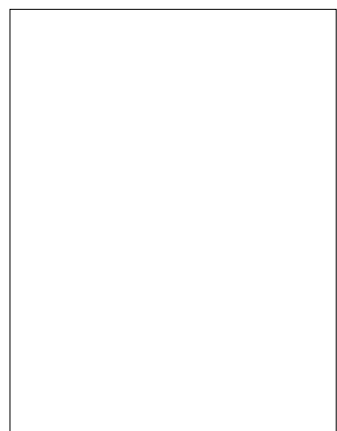
After a tortuous internal struggle, Zuma was removed. This enabled some ANC critics to back the party again.

Big business had shrieked for Zuma's removal because he was a destabilising element. In the main the corporations were reconciled to the ruling party once he was removed.

The South African Communist Party (SACP) announced in February 2018 that it could stand separately from the ANC



The removal of Zuma enabled some ANC critics to back the party again



Workers held a general strike in April 2018 (main). An Economic Freedom Fighters election placard (above)

at the next election. The SACP matters. It claims 280,000 members and has major influence in the unions.

Having been part of a "tripartite alliance" with the ANC and the Cosatu union federation for decades, a split would have been significant. But once Zuma went it shifted back to supporting the ANC.

Struggle

Last month it wrote that "the ANC remains the only political formation on the ballot capable of leading this struggle".

Former ANC cabinet minister Ronnie Kasrils told Socialist Worker, "The SACP fully supported the ANC despite the painful lessons of the Zuma years. The ANC's neoliberalism has no hope of creating jobs."

"The ANC still manages to pull nearly 60 percent because the African masses do not see any other party that gives them hope."

"There is a 'liberation legacy' of being the party that led the battle against apartheid—although it is growing increasingly thin."

Zuma was replaced by Cyril Ramaphosa, who sums up the downward trajectory of the ANC.

Ramaphosa once led the militant National Union of Mineworkers. But he will forever be associated with the massacre of 34 miners at Marikana in 2012. Ramaphosa was a director of Lonmin, the mining firm that worked with police to carry out the killings.

He played a key role in the events, demanding "action" against the strikers.

The Democratic Alliance (DA), the ANC's main parliamentary opposition, took 21 percent in the election, almost exactly the same as 2014.

The DA has its roots in some of the white parties that existed under apartheid but now has a mostly black leadership and support.

It grew by posing as a "clean" alternative to the ANC. But it openly backs big business and its manifesto called for mass privatisation. It opposed attempts to seize land for redistribution from the rich.

A TURN TO STRUGGLE

The ruling ANC did badly in South Africa's elections last week. Charlie Kimber says building up resistance is the way forward

THE Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) saw the biggest rise in support. It went from 6 percent in 2014 to 11 percent last week.

Leader Julius Malema's radical rhetoric has drawn in hundreds of thousands who suffer unemployment and poverty, and want real change.

The EFF manifesto highlighted the issue of land ownership and jobs. It claimed, "25 years since the attainment of political freedom, 80 percent of the population continues to occupy less than 10 percent of South Africa's land."

The EFF added, "More than seven million capable South Africans who need jobs are

unemployed, with no hope that anything will change unless the current government is changed."

Despite facing its own corruption allegations, the EFF has become the focus of some of the disenchantment with the ANC.

Regrettably that is not yet true of the Revolutionary Socialist Workers Party. Launched very recently, it seemed to have a solid base—the metalworkers' union Numsa, with about 350,000 members.

But across the country it won only 25,000 votes, under 0.2 percent of the total.

Numsa began talking about the launch of a new workers' party more than five years ago.

But it hesitated, allowing

the EFF to seize the moment. Its manifesto put forward some excellent socialist policies, but there wasn't enough time to create organisation on the ground.

The elections must become a spur to struggle. There has to be intensive organisation in workplaces and agitation over inequality, racism, services, jobs and other issues.

Cebolenkosi Mhala is a member of Abahlali baseMjondolo, the 55,000-strong shack dwellers' movement based in the province of KwaZulu Natal.

He told Socialist Worker, "I never expected much from these elections. I know the crucial work will be what we do in our areas, among the poor."

"My organisation put out a statement that said, 'We have

discussed what it means to vote but still remain impoverished. What it means to vote but remain landless and homeless."

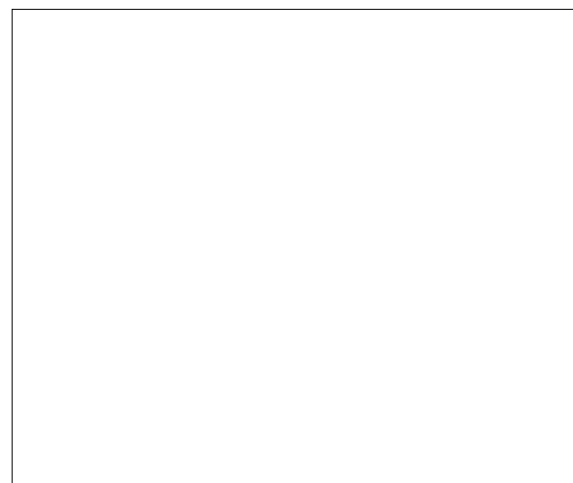
"What it means to vote but to be denied basic services that our constitutional democracy and international laws and standards have promised us."

"And we have discussed what it means to vote but get killed by the very same people you have voted into power."

"This is what I stand by. Our power comes from below, from the struggle waged from the occupations and in the streets."

South Africa has a very high level of resistance—protests, militant demonstrations and strikes.

Building on them is the way forward.



CYRIL RAMAPHOSA during the ANC campaign

ANC compromises betrayed the poor

Liberation movements that make concessions to capitalism eventually fail those they claim to be freeing.

The ANC leaders who headed South Africa after 1994 hoped to preside over a "fair" capitalism where black and white would be treated equally.

They hoped that "partnership" with the bosses would produce prosperity.

But the price for securing the goodwill of the powerful corporations, landowners and bankers was the abandonment of their promises to the masses.

Militant rhetoric was replaced by a plan to cooperate with capitalism, not confront it.

Apartheid meant racist oppression of the immense majority, and entrenched poverty.

The ANC brought some changes. But economic freedom remains remote.

Today the official unemployment figure is 27 percent.

But the figure rises to 37 percent if those who have given up looking for work are taken into account.

For the 20 million

young people who have become adults under the ANC, unemployment is even higher.

The richest 1 percent own 70 percent of the country's wealth, while the bottom 60 percent own a mere 7 percent.

The newly-formed South African Federation of Trade Unions, which had broken links with the ANC, said in 2017, "The ANC government embraced the worst kind of free market capitalist fundamentalism."

"This arose from the negotiated settlement which led to the democratic breakthrough of 1994 but which also guaranteed the continuation of monopoly, white-owned capitalism."

"As a result we have become the most unequal society in the world."

The economic realities have political implications.

The government said 75 percent of the country registered to vote ahead of the latest poll.

But this left ten million unregistered—of which six million are under the age of 30.

READ MORE

● **South Africa—from Marikana to the 'Numsa' moment**
bit.ly/Numsa

● **Marikana—A View from the Mountain and a Case to Answer**

Available at Bookmarks.
Phone 020 7637 1848 or
go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



Perfume can't hide the stench of money and racism

Sadie Robinson went to a Brexit Party rally in Peterborough last week—and found it full of posh bigots

THERE WAS a popular show in Peterborough last week. Over 1,500 people turned out to watch it, although there were empty seats.

They were mostly older people, more male than female and almost exclusively white.

It was like a gathering at the golf club, but on a bigger scale.

The crowd was largely made up of well-to-do, respectable types.

People dressed smartly, as you might expect on a night out, and there was a strong smell of perfume in the women's toilets.

But this wasn't a cabaret or harmless entertainment show—although the "acts" were introduced with the same kind of cheesy voiceover and rock music. It was a rally for Nigel Farage's Brexit Party.

And when party chair Richard Tice asked how many had registered as party supporters, lots of hands went up.

Speakers were "entrepreneurs" and former Tories. All are well-off and some are obscenely rich. They included Wetherspoon boss Tim Martin and former Tory minister for prisons Ann Widdecombe.

Tice, who heads the list for the party in the region, is a multi-millionaire property developer.

Another candidate is serial boss Paul Hearn, spoke about how Brexit gave more "opportunities" to make money.

Nationalist

While much of the evening focused on how best to help businesses, the major theme was democracy. This was invariably couched in nationalist terms.

Speakers also portrayed themselves as standing up for the mass of people against out of touch politicians and elites. There were repeated



NIGEL FARAGE stirs the crowd

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

references to taking on the "establishment" and the "vested interests".

The need to "take back control of our borders" was mentioned several times but it wasn't the main focus. Racism was more alluded to than overtly on display.

References to Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn were greeted with far louder boos than those to Theresa May. Yet there was some left wing window dressing.

Edmund Fordham, who described himself as an engineer and physicist, told the crowd he used to be a Labour Party member, to some hisses.

He went on to explain how the late Labour MP Tony Benn opposed being part of Europe for "democratic" reasons.

He said Benn would be "turning in his grave" to see Corbyn failing to back Brexit, to applause.

Why were people there? Yvette said that she wanted to protect democracy for her grandchildren.

"The EU wants to privatise the NHS," she added. She went

on to detail how the EU had stopped various relatives from making money, including the owner of a vineyard who can't export his wine to the EU because there is "so much tax".

Former Tory councillor Ken said, "We need to control our own democracy and our borders. We are a proud, independent nation and we need to stay that way."

Another woman said she didn't like Ukup because it is racist, but thought the Brexit Party might be different.

Yet it is led by a man who thinks it's a problem living next to Romanians. He has defended the use of racist language, and has said migrants make parts of Britain "unrecognisable".

Refugees

Farage is the one who unveiled a poster showing Syrian refugees with the words, "Breaking point—the EU has failed us all."

The wealthy former banker is publicly focusing on his ridiculous claim to be "anti-establishment" because it can help him win votes. But the same old racism remains.

Outside the rally one attendee, Adam, explained why he backed the Brexit Party.

"I've seen how the EU has affected Peterborough," he said. "There are sofas and mattresses dumped on our streets because people from eastern Europe don't know how to dispose of waste properly."

Read the full report online at bit.ly/BrexitPartyPerfume



The major theme was democracy—couched in nationalism

Tories agree to pay-out on deadly cladding

by ALISTAIR FARROW

TWO YEARS on from the Grenfell Tower fire that killed at least 72 people, Tory deceit seemingly knows no bounds.

The government is finally to fund the removal of cladding from privately-owned high rise residential blocks to the tune of £200 million.

Scandalously, the money is not a new fund.

It will come from the existing budget for the Department for Communities and Local Government.

That means cuts elsewhere.

Without irony, housing minister James Brokenshire attacked private block owners for dragging their feet over their response to the fire.

Reckless

"I am now calling time on the delay tactics of others," he said. "If these reckless building owners won't act, the government will."

This is exactly what building owners wanted—for the government to foot the bill. And for the Tories to



PART OF the Grenfell Silent Walk in January

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

lecture on "delay tactics" is the height of hypocrisy.

Almost two years on from the fire and residential blocks are yet to be made safe.

The Tories' figure of £200 million is to fund the removal of cladding from 166 private residential

blocks. "What about social housing, hospitals and schools with flammable cladding?" asked Moyra Samuels from the Justice4Grenfell campaign group.

"The Tories keep making promises in one area and taking away in another."

There are 29 student accommodation blocks and 31 hotels which have yet to have remedial work started on them, and are not mentioned by Brokenshire.

The kind of cladding used on Grenfell is just one among a swathe of flammable

cladding treatments. Local authorities are footing the bill for removing these types of cladding with little or no help from the government.

There is not even a test for other types of cladding yet.

Responsible

In response to questions in parliament, Brokenshire said, "As a condition of the funding, we will stipulate that building owners pursue warranty and insurance claims against those responsible for putting unsafe ACM cladding on these buildings."

Ordinary people will be left in fear once more, while those responsible are not even slapped on the wrists.

Moyra said, "There's no real accountability about why this regulatory framework allowed these types of cladding to be used in the first place."

"Who is going to face the music for that?"

"The Tories are guilty for creating the system that made Grenfell an inevitability."

Join the Justice4Grenfell demonstration at 12 noon, 15 June, Portland Place, central London. bit.ly/GrenfellJune

The bereaved speak out

The campaigning organisation Inquest released a report earlier this week that puts the experience of bereaved families centre stage.

The report details how they have been abandoned by Kensington and Chelsea council and the government.

One person pointed out, "Children have been totally forgotten, they need support at school psychologically for the long term impact."

There is deep and justified suspicion that the inquiry is an establishment stitch-up and concerns at how bereaved people from outside Britain have been treated.

One relative testified, "I had to come from Egypt. I was totally lost. I didn't have any support."

Read the full report at bit.ly/InquestGrenfell

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White House is drowning in a climate of denial



Donald Trump is destroying the Earth. It's another reason to join protests when the climate change denier comes to Britain next month, writes Sarah Bates

DONALD TRUMP'S war on the planet is one of the most urgent reasons to join protests against his state visit to Britain in June.

His administration has launched a raft of attacks on the environment. Extreme weather, species extinction, decimation of natural habitats and other horrors for ordinary people are presented as opportunities for bosses to make profits.

Trump has even promised to pull the US out of the Paris 2015 climate agreement at the earliest opportunity—the day after the presidential election in 2020.

He has surrounded himself with politicians and advisers with deep links to the fossil fuel industry.

This has seen him lift a ban that stopped new leases for coal mines on government land and push through swingeing cuts for renewable energy investment.

Wildlife

He's opened up Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling.

And documents leaked in March exposed plans to sell off Florida's coastlines for fossil fuel exploration.

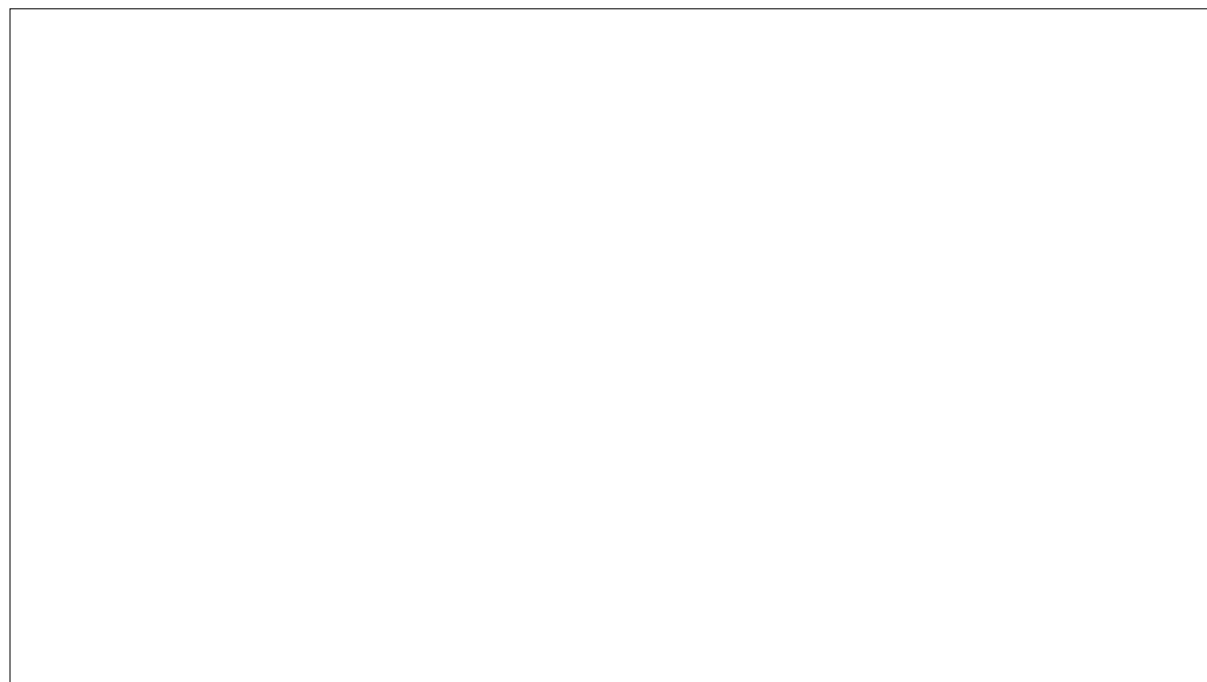
Trump signed two executive orders to speed up approval of fossil fuel projects.

The first bill will make it harder for individual states to block oil and gas pipelines on environmental and health grounds.

And the second will give the president the sole ability

to approve fossil fuel infrastructure.

His presidency follows years of



DONALD TRUMP (below) shrugs off the dangers oil drilling in the Arctic (above)

claiming that climate change was a hoax.

And after winning the presidency Trump even attempted to bury a 1,600-page climate change report produced by 13 departments of his own government.

When asked why it was released on Black Friday—one of the busiest shopping days—he replied, it was because “I don't believe it”.

But instead of outright climate denial, Trump is now attempting to hide behind “climate scepticism”.

He focuses his efforts on doubting the extent of the climate crisis, instead of denying its existence at all.

This is echoed throughout much of

his administration.

Arctic temperatures are rising fast—decimating the natural habitat of endangered species and causing sea levels to rise.

But at the Arctic Council gathering earlier this month US secretary of state Mike Pompeo said the melting ice presented “new opportunities for trade”.

“Arctic sea lanes could become the 21st Century Suez and Panama Canals,” he said.

Trump is implementing policy that sets in motion rapid and catastrophic climate change. The movement to stop him must be even more urgent.

What's your story?
Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Trump family's opportunism

TRUMP AND his three adult children were part of a coalition of bosses who pressured president Barack Obama to take climate action ahead of international climate talks in 2009. In an opportunist act, they signed an ad in the New York Times newspaper calling for “the change necessary to protect humanity and our planet”.

Oil states reject climate report

ONLY four countries declined to “welcome” the landmark IPCC report last year that warned of climate catastrophe if temperatures rose by 2 degrees.

All four export oil—Russia, US, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Doubtful opinions of US citizens

BECAUSE OF the lead from the top, the US has one of the highest rates of people who doubt climate science.

Some 13 percent of Americans think that the climate is changing “but human activity is not responsible at all”. Some 5 percent think the climate isn't changing.

And 17 percent agreed with the statement, “Man-made global warming is a hoax.”

Oil industry money greases US political machine

OIL AND gas bosses funnel money to politicians and fund dodgy research on climate change to influence energy policy.

Andrew Wheeler is the top US environment regulator—he's also a former coal lobbyist and fossil fuel industry lawyer.

He's delighted that Trump wants to exit the Paris climate agreement. Wheeler calls for a “healthier, open discussion around some of the scientific questions”.

The fossil fuel industry has spent decades pouring doubt on climate science.

It was revealed last month that the largest five fossil fuel companies spent £153 million a year on lobbying in the US.

In the run up to the US midterm elections in 2018, £2 million dollars was spent on targeted social media adverts.

The report released by the InfluenceMap think tank highlights the hypocrisy from these companies.

Andrew Wheeler

Edward Collins, one of the report's authors, said these firms “publicly support climate action while lobbying against

binding policy”. “They advocate low-carbon solutions but such investments are dwarfed by spending on their fossil fuel business,” he said.

Revelations

This was underlined by recent revelations about “Global Climate Coalition” (GCC), a lobby group funded by fossil fuel companies in the 1990s and 2000s.

It tried for years to influence the findings of the United Nations IPCC

climate scientists' reports. It spent huge amounts of cash on getting sympathetic scientists to become IPCC contributors.

And it even bought adverts attacking the credibility of individual IPCC scientists. The effects can still be felt today.

Professor Robert Brull said, “The efforts of the GCC continue to live on in the ongoing efforts of many conservative think tanks to dispute the findings of climate science.”

IN BRIEF

Bus workers fight for £1 an hour more

BUS DRIVERS in Preston and Chorley staged two one-day strikes in a dispute over pay.

Unite union members at Stagecoach walked out last Saturday and on Tuesday of this week because they earn over £1 an hour less than colleagues driving nearby.

Almost 300 drivers are set to stage four more days of action in the next three weeks.

They are fighting for an increase of their rate of £10.50 an hour.

John Broughton of Unite said Stagecoach can “afford to do right by its drivers and take steps to close the pay gap”.

Heathrow drivers strike over shifts

HGV DRIVERS at Heathrow Airport are set to walk out for five days over “punishing” shift patterns.

The Unite union members are employed by Alpha LSG and are due to begin their action from Wednesday of next week.

The workers supply 29 Airlines and are responsible for supplies of food, drink and duty free.

They are fighting new shift patterns, which were introduced on 1 March.

New rotas mean drivers are working extra days, and have to work up to six weeks before they get a weekend off.

Workers aren't receiving their proper break allowance and rest days, and also report being unable to complete their work during their shift.

Action could take off in Scotland

WORKERS AT Highland and Islands Airports Limited are set to strike on Thursday of next week.

The air traffic controllers are in the Prospect union.

The strike follows the breakdown of talks, for which an earlier strike was called off.

Airports that will be affected are Dundee, Inverness, Wick, Kirkwall, Sumburgh, Stornoway, and Benbecula.

Shopping centre decision imminent

THE ELEPHANT and Castle shopping centre planning application is set to reach the next phase on 17 and 18 July.

The High Court will decide on whether to grant permission for the development plans in south London.

It will also make a ruling on whether to launch a judicial review into the process. It follows a long campaign to ensure that any development includes social housing and guarantees for shopkeepers already there.

SOLIDARITY



THE FBU union rallying in solidarity with Migul Roldan, a Spanish firefighter who faces prison because he was part of Mediterranean refugee rescue missions

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

EDUCATION

Strikes score victory at Lambeth College

by SADIE ROBINSON

WORKERS AT Lambeth College in south London have won a pay rise after a series of strikes. They have also won improvements to conditions for staff on new, worse contracts at the college.

UCU union members there have staged ten days of strikes since November as part of a campaign by the union over pay and conditions in English colleges.

They had threatened further strikes in June if bosses didn't resolve the dispute.

Workers at Lambeth were fighting a below-inflation 1 percent pay deal and were also demanding better holiday and sick pay for staff on new contracts. Workers earning less than £40,000 will receive a

further 2 percent rise on top of the 1 percent already offered. Those earning over £40,000 will receive a further 1 percent.

The pay deal is backdated to September last year.

And workers earning a full time equivalent salary of less than £26,000 will receive a one-off payment of £250.

All staff will have six months' full sick pay entitlement, and six months' half sick pay entitlement. Teachers on the new contracts will receive an extra five days' annual holiday, and their teaching hours will be cut from 24 hours a week to 23.

UCU members voted to accept the deal at a meeting last week.

Joint UCU branch secretary Mandy Brown said, “Striking is a brave and often difficult thing to do. But we received

hundreds of solidarity messages and donations.

“We have learned two very important things. First, the money is there. And second, strikes work.”

■UCU UNION members at West Thames College in west London began a 48-hour strike on Tuesday of last week.

The action was part of a long running dispute over pay and conditions.

Workers at nine colleges struck in April, 13 in January and six last November.

West Thames UCU members College delivered a unanimous vote for strikes in a recent ballot.

UCU official Una O'Brien said, “It is not acceptable for colleges to say finances are tight and nothing can be done.”

UNIVERSITIES

Higher education workers fight back

UNIVERSITY WORKERS are furious at a new attack on their USS pension scheme. UCU union members at over 60 universities held 14 days of strikes last year to defend their pensions.

They had faced being forced to pay more into the scheme and getting much less in retirement.

Now the USS board that runs it has proposed three options for how to make changes. All involve workers paying higher contributions.

The union's head of higher education, Paul Bridge, said the union has made “substantial progress”. But he said that none of the options represent a “No Detriment” outcome “which is the union's policy position”.

This says that workers should not pay more and their benefits should not be



Fighting for pensions

reduced. At the UCU's annual congress later this month, delegates will decide when members will be balloted on the final proposals.

London region UCU has called a lobby of talks between the UCU and bosses' Universities UK.

●Lobby the USS Joint Negotiating Committee—Friday 17 May, assemble from 9.30am, USS HQ, 60 Threadneedle St, London EC2

■UCU union members at Winchester university have voted overwhelmingly for strikes to save jobs. Bosses have threatened to impose compulsory redundancies on university workers

Some 80 percent of those voting backed strikes in a ballot and 93 percent supported action short of a strike.

The turnout was 57.7 percent.

Other action could include boycotting open days and working to rule.

Bosses want to scrap 55 posts—around 10 percent of the workforce.

Students held a demonstration last month over the cuts and have shown support for workers.

●Send messages of support to simon.boxley@winchester.ac.uk

TRANSPORT

Driving up pay at Uber

DRIVERS FOR the Uber taxi app firm struck on Wednesday of last week, the day before the company was floated on the stock market.

Workers protested outside the company's headquarters in east London, as well in other cities. It was organised by United Private Hire Drivers (UPHD), a branch of the IWGB union.

Chair of the London branch of UPHD, Muhumed Ali, told

Socialist Worker, “Uber would not exist without its drivers.”

Drivers are demanding an increase of £2 a mile in their fares and a reduction in the rates that Uber charges them. The next step in the campaign is weekly strikes on Fridays.

“Uber doesn't want to listen, so we have to make them,” said Muhumed.

Workers at Lyft and Uber in dozens of countries also took action last week.

VICTIMISATION

Defend rep Lee Humber

A PROTEST was planned for this Saturday in defence of victimised UCU union rep Lee Humber. Bosses at Oxford's Ruskin College suspended Lee in March on trumped up charges.

Students and workers joined a protest outside the college within days.

Lee is membership secretary of the UCU at Ruskin College. He was suspended after the union branch delivered a vote of no confidence in the principal, Paul Di Felice. Lee has led

campaigns at the college to defend education and workers' rights.

The national union said he has been victimised as a result and is urging people to join the rally.

●Rally in support of Lee Humber—Saturday 18 May, assemble 11am, Cowley Place, The Plain, Oxford OX4 1DX. Go to [Oxford March for Education](https://www.facebook.com/OxfordMarchForEducation) on Facebook

●Send messages of support to dmcdermott@ruskin.ac.uk and messages of protest to pfelice@ruskin.ac.uk

ANTI-ACADEMIES



PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

John Roan battle rages on

WORKERS AT The John Roan school in Greenwich, south east London, struck on Tuesday. The NEU union members are fighting a plan to turn the school into an academy.

After an academy sponsor pulled out workers have been told a new sponsor has been found but have been given no more details.

School students joined pickets, and passing vehicles tooted their support for the strike. School student Martha told Socialist Worker, “I'm worried if it does become an academy, they will find a way to give less support to children with learning difficulties.”

Pat, a former student and parent at the school, also joined pickets in solidarity. “There are problems at the school,” she told Socialist Worker.

“But I just don't see that

academisation, removing all democratic accountability, is the solution.”

Workers lobbied the Department for Education following the picket. They want education secretary Damian Hinds to revoke the academy order.

Striker Evelyn told Socialist Worker, “In academies there's a higher staff turnaround and that's not good for children. There's a lack of stability and continuity.”

“It would be a sad place to work in. Academies are more like businesses. They don't really care about children.”

●Send messages of support to johnroannut@gmail.com

■Workers in the NEU, GMB and Unison unions struck at the Halley Academy in Greenwich on Tuesday. They are fighting a plan to make 19 support staff redundant.

SOCIAL CARE

Striking against the outsourcing bosses

by SARAH BATES

A SEVEN-DAY strike by social care support workers in Merseyside has brought their bosses to the negotiating table.

Over 600 Unison union members at Alternative Futures Group (AFG) are fighting to get the national minimum wage for all the hours they are at work.

AFG bosses want to cut their wages to a flat payment during a sleep-in night shifts. This represents a cut of thousands of pounds for many workers, who are already low paid.

The week's action was rounded off by a rally in Liverpool city centre, where strikers sang "care at night, pay us right".

Mark, a support worker from Macclesfield said that they were there "to stand up for ourselves".

"Some of my friends and colleagues are having to use food banks, having to take out pay day loans to make ends meet," he said.

"And a lot of people, although they love the job and want to stay on the job, are having to move on and do other things just to survive."

Player

AFG is a big player in the adult social care sector and tenders contracts from 15 councils.

It claims it can't afford to maintain wages but 13 councils pay the firm more than the national minimum wage as part of the contract.

At the strike rally Unison general secretary Dave Prentis said, "AFG get



WORKERS AT a strike rally last week

money from councils to provide care for some of the most vulnerable in our society.

"The councils who contracted them have given the money to pay you, they've got that money, what are they doing with it?"

"It's going into the pay of the top directors, hundreds of thousands of pounds while our members are paid a pittance."

AFG bosses have agreed to further talks—but workers should stay prepared for more action if negotiations fail.

And the scam of outsourcing vital social service to private firms has to

be stopped. Liverpool Labour mayor Joe Anderson said, "We are a city that has been bludgeoned by cuts from central government".

He said that for the Labour Party to outsource to "companies who milk the profits of workers is absolutely wrong".

Strikers are right to fight back against miserly bosses who trouser the profits from lucrative public service contracts while workers are left to starve.

It should lead into a wider fight against the entire rotten system of privatisation and outsourcing that strangles adult social care and lets the company bosses get rich.

ABORTION RIGHTS

Protest stands up to bigots

PRO-CHOICE activists gathered in central London last Saturday to oppose the annual March for Life protest.

Thousands of bigots joined the anti-abortionist march before a rally in Parliament Square.

The counter-protest was called by Abortion Rights.

Hayley is secretary of the Doctors for Choice group, which also backed the pro-choice protest.

She said, "We are seeing the rise of an American-style movement where anti-abortionists hold



On Saturday's demo

protests at abortion clinics."

Connie from Queen Mary University Feminist Society said, "The right to choose is something we can't afford to lose—we have to defend it."

NHS

Liverpool equal pay vote

UNITE UNION members at the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen hospitals have voted by a large margin to strike for equal pay.

The support workers voted by 99 percent for strikes on an 81 percent turnout.

They are demanding

outsourcer ISS pays them the same rates of pay as workers directly employed by the NHS.

Recent strikes over outsourcing and pay have shown that calling longer periods of action can win results.

HARLOW

Essex against outsourcing

SUPPORT STAFF at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow have overwhelmingly backed strikes against privatisation.

The Unison union members have voted by 99 percent for strikes on an 83 percent turnout over bosses' plans to outsource their jobs.

Worker Claire Evans said, "This vote is a clear message to our bosses that we don't want to work for an outside contractor."

It shows that health workers are ready for a

fight against low pay and privatisation.

Unison should call a programme of action.

■ UNISON members at Avon and Wiltshire Partnership Mental Health Trust held a lunchtime protest last Thursday.

The admin workers and medical secretaries are balloting for strikes over the threats to pay and jobs.

Workers should vote for strikes in the ballot, which runs until the 22 May.

CIVIL SERVICE

Lessons from PCS elections

RESULTS OF elections for the PCS union's assistant general secretary (AGS) were announced last week.

John Moloney—a member of the Independent Left group inside PCS—beat the incumbent candidate Chris Baugh. Lynn Henderson—backed by Socialist Worker supporters—came third.

Socialist Worker supporters backed Henderson mainly due to her support for the union's agreed position over holding a national ballot over pay.

Baugh and his supporters were in favour of balloting individually each of the union's sections, which correspond to different government departments. This would have seen each section negotiate with their own employers and undermine unity.

Moloney presented himself as critical of the union bureaucracy. But he is also against the union's national

campaign for a 10 percent pay rise, instead arguing for a campaign for pay equalisation.

Moloney got 6,211 votes. Baugh got 5,796 and Henderson 5,588. It suggests Maloney won partly because the Left Unity group's vote was split between Baugh and Henderson. But only around 10.5 percent of ballot papers were returned, suggesting many didn't see the arguments between left groups as relevant.

Re-engaging members in the union means having to build rank and file organisation in PCS branches. Recent campaigning for strike ballots over pay has been effective. The pay campaign saw the growth of activist networks that can be built on.

The best way to build a strong union with a rank and file is through involving members in active campaigning and struggle.

INTERSERVE

Workers can clean up in fight

CLEANERS, porters and messengers working at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in central London were set to strike next week over redundancies and pay cuts.

The members of the PCS union work for outsourcer Interserve. Bosses have imposed redundancies, imposed pay cuts and refused to negotiate with PCS officials.

The workers were set to strike on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

They previously struck for two days earlier this month.

DRIVING INSTRUCTORS

Examiners slam brakes on attacks

DRIVING examiners and Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) enforcement officers have voted to strike in a long-running dispute over shifts and travel time.

The members of the PCS union members voted by 83 percent to strike.

PCS said the ballot campaign targeted members that "will be asked to take more sustained action" because they work in parts of the DVSA where it says strikes could have a bigger impact.

PCS reps were set to meet to discuss their next steps as Socialist Worker went to press.

SELLAFIELD



On the picket line during a previous dispute

More action over poverty pay

SECURITY, CLEANING and catering staff at Sellafield nuclear plant are planning to strike for a further ten days as part of their action over poverty pay.

The Unite union members are set to strike for ten days from this Sunday.

The 180 members have already struck for 16 days, including a ten-day walkout which ended on Monday of this week.

The strikers are outsourced to Mitie and took

action after rejecting the firm's offer of just £8.21 an hour.

Ryan Armstrong, Unite's regional officer, said, "The strike is having a huge effect with the canteen now barely functioning and workers reporting how quickly buildings have become dirty."

"Mitie bosses need to see sense and return to the negotiating table with the understanding that poverty pay rates must end at Sellafield."

Britain's rich elite £48bn better off

New rich list showed Britain is a county of 'Ferraris and food banks', writes **Sarah Bates**

THE WEALTH of Britain's super-rich has soared to record-breaking heights—while tens of thousands of people have been plunged into poverty.

The Sunday Times Rich List published last Sunday showed that the richest 1,000 individuals are worth £771 billion—up £48 billion in a year.

The Equality Trust charity's research said the 1,000 richest people had seen their wealth rise by £253 billion in the past five years.

This means they have more wealth than the poorest 40 percent of households.

There were some notable drops in income. Fashion boss Philip Green's wealth was valued at a billion pounds less than last year.

The Sunday Times newspaper boasted, "This is capitalism at the sharp end—a dog-eat-dog world where no fortune is completely bulletproof.

BACK STORY

The 1,000 richest people in Britain are worth £771 billion, according to the Sunday Times rich list

● That means they are £48 billion better off than last year

● Over half of the people on the list are billionaires

● Jim Ratcliffe came third on the list despite moving to Monaco to avoid up to £4 billion in tax

"But here's the paradox—despite the financial pain experienced by some of Britain's wealthiest folk over the past 12 months this is still a record year for the rich list."

Jim Ratcliffe, CEO of fossil fuel company Ineos, came third on the list despite shipping off stacks of his cash to tax haven Monaco this year.

The move could mean he avoids paying £4 billion of

tax in Britain. The British arm of Ineos announced profits of £1.97 billion in 2018—with Ratcliffe's personal stake in it worth £18 billion alone.

And he also owns a Swiss football club, two superyachts, and hotels.

Property was the primary investment for the 163 people on the list, but others are making a fortune by speculating on the stock market.

Oil tycoon and Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich made an average of £1.6 million a day on his investment portfolio.

Some billionaires pay themselves astronomic incomes.

Denise Coates nets a salary of £220 million as founder of Bet365 gambling website.

She's putting the money to good use by building a glass mansion with its own artificial lake.

Tidy

Others are making a tidy profit while forcing their workers to live in poverty.

Discount shop Home Bargains—which boasts of being Merseyside's biggest employer—pays workers as little as £5.39 an hour.

But boss Tom Morris and his family saw their wealth increase by £100 million this year, bringing their total to £3.59 billion.

And names on the list also highlight how the rich use their financial resources in an attempt to stop policies that might curtail their wealth.

Billionaire theatre director Justin Gore has donated £2.6 million to the Tories since the start of 2017. He said he was getting involved in politics because "we see extreme demagogues reaching prominent positions".

The Rich List is an annual reminder of the way capitalism enables a handful of billionaires to collect huge amounts of wealth at the majority's expense.

JIM RATCLIFFE is Britain's third richest person—despite living in Monaco to avoid tax

200,000 more children in poverty

THE NUMBER of children living in absolute poverty has increased by 200,000 in just one year, according to new government research.

It showed that 3.7 million children now live in absolute poverty.

Further research carried out for the Child Poverty Action Group to coincide with the publication of the figures said the freeze on children's benefits means an average loss of £240 per year for families with children.

Labour's shadow work and pensions secretary Margaret Greenwood said, "The government needs to end the benefits freeze and stop the rollout of Universal Credit which

Children's Commissioner
Anne Longfield

is pushing people into poverty."

The Children's Commissioner for England Anne Longfield has also published a report as part of her role advocating for children's welfare.

It found that the triple impact of Universal Credit, a two child limit on some welfare payments and

the benefits cap would plunge many more into poverty. Some 25 percent of children in the study would live in a household with a monthly deficit.

Claimants have to wait at least five weeks to get their first Universal Credit payment—and many are forced to apply for an advance payment.

But the pressure of having to pay these advance payments plunge 10 percent of low paid households into deficit.

It also discovered that Universal Credit made 40 percent of households worse off, losing an average of £181 a month.

Universal Credit must be stopped and scrapped immediately.

Pensioner killed herself after DWP cut off money

JOY WORRALL jumped to her death after the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) left her with just £5 in her bank account, an inquest heard last week.

The DWP stopped her pension in 2017. This left Joy, from Flintshire, North Wales, with no income when she died in November 2018.

After receiving a £5,000 inheritance in 2014, Joy had her state pension stopped.

The DWP should have just paused Joy's smaller pension credits instead.

Her son Ben said, "It's

Joy Worrall was left with just
£5 in her bank account

a disgrace that this can happen in modern society and what concerns me is that this could happen to someone else."